Nova Scotia Department of Natural Resources

Annual Accountability Report for the Fiscal Year 2006-2007

Report DNR 2007–02
December 2007

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1 Accountability Statement

The accountability report of the Department of Natural Resources, for the year ended March 31, 2007, is prepared pursuant to the *Provincial Finance Act* and government policies and guidelines. These authorities require the reporting of outcomes against the department's business plan information for the fiscal year 2006-07. The reporting of departmental outcomes necessarily includes estimates, judgments and opinions by department management and staff.

We acknowledge that this accountability report is the responsibility of the management of the Department of Natural Resources. The report is, to the extent possible, a complete and accurate representation of outcomes relative to the goals and priorities set out in the department's business plan for the year.

Original signed by
Minister - David M. Morse

Original signed by Brian Gilbert (acting DM)
Deputy Minister - Peter C. Underwood

2 Message From The Minister

It is my pleasure to present the Accountability Report of the Department of Natural Resources, as a summary of the department's activities during the year that ended on March 31, 2007. This is the department's seventh accountability report. It is an opportunity for us to provide the public with information on our 2006-07 accomplishments relative to the commitments listed in our 2006-07 Business Plan. Information is also provided on actions taken by the department in response to other significant issues that arose throughout the year.

On behalf of all Nova Scotians, I would like to thank the staff of the department for their efforts during the year to deliver programs and services related to our forest, mineral and wildlife resources, our provincial parks system, and our Crown land base. We are looking forward to 2007-08, when the process to develop a Natural Resources Strategy for the province will begin.

I hope you find the information provided in this report interesting and useful. If you wish to obtain more information on the many programs and services delivered by the department, visit our website at www.gov.ns.ca/natr.

Sincerely,
David M. Morse
Minister of Natural Resources

3 Introduction

This document reports on the specific priorities and performance measures that were identified in the department's 2006-07 Business Plan. An electronic version of the plan can be accessed at http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/businessplan/default.htm.

The principal responsibility of the department is the management of natural resources (forests, wildlife, minerals, parks) and Crown lands in the province. When reviewing this document, readers should recognize and be aware of several facts.

First, Nova Scotia has one of the lowest proportions of Crown lands of all provinces and territories, at just over a quarter of the province's land mass. Increasingly high public expectations and numerous competing demands for the use of this limited public land and resource base have created ongoing challenges that the department must address in creative and collaborative ways. Although the province has acquired several significant properties in recent years, the fact remains that a relatively small proportion of this province is publicly owned.

Second, as in previous accountability reports, we have provided a caution that the unpredictability of nature is a continuous influence on departmental operations, that weather patterns and climatic conditions vary greatly from year to year, and that this can have a significant impact on departmental priorities and activities, resources and budgets. Hurricane Juan showed just how much of an impact the weather can have on the department's operations. As previously stated, forest fires, insect infestations, wildlife and forest health, park attendance, and the state of departmental infrastructure, such as boardwalks and trails, are all affected by the weather and our climate.

Third, due to the location of the majority of our natural resources, the department has a higher profile in the province's rural areas, and a more rural focus. Foundation industries are key contributors to the economic health of the province, particularly in the rural parts of Nova Scotia. There is an ongoing need for the department to heighten public awareness and understanding of the economic importance of our natural resources to both the rural population and the province of Nova Scotia as a whole, and the efforts made by the department to manage our resources in a responsible and sustainable manner.

Fourth, the department is responsible for significant infrastructure, such as parks, trails, fire towers, buildings, vehicles and equipment. It is a continuing challenge to replace and maintain this essential aging infrastructure that is required for the department's operations.

Finally, a three-year process to develop a new strategy governing Nova Scotia's natural resources will begin in 2007-08. The strategy will include four key components: forests, minerals, parks, and biodiversity (which is the diversity among and within plant and animal

species in an ecosystem). Open and inclusive public consultations will play a critical role in making the process a success.

4 Department Progress and Accomplishments

The department's medium-term broad goals, included in the 2006-07 Business Plan, are listed below. These are to:

- increase awareness and understanding of sound natural resources management principles and practices
- continuously improve departmental strategies for managing natural resources and Crown land
- improve internal departmental planning processes and management systems, and
- improve the department's work environment and the capacity of staff to deliver departmental programs and services.

The following sections report on accomplishments during 2006-07 for each priority listed under the four individual goals provided in department's 2006-07 Business Plan.

4.1 Increase Awareness and Understanding of Sound Natural Resources Management Principles and Practices

4.1.1 Social Marketing

The department had committed to examining the way it communicates with both its stakeholders and the general public. Aspects of the communications process that were to be reviewed included: audience awareness/interest in natural resource topics, the perception of department initiatives, audience information requirements, internal communications, as well as existing communications and messaging strategies.

The findings of a public opinion survey that was carried out in March 2006 were analyzed and survey highlights were presented to DNR staff at several briefings held across the province. Survey findings and staff input were examined to identify areas of communications requiring modification.

A draft communications policy was prepared. Several steps were taken to ensure that the department's identity was presented accurately and consistently. Examples included steps to standardize vehicle signage, caller IDs for departmental telephone

lines, and identifiable clothing and uniforms. Several ways to enhance internal communication for employees were examined and it was determined that the department's internal Intranet website would be the key medium to assist in meeting this objective. The process to be followed to carry out the Natural Resources Strategy was developed to enable the department to strengthen its communications capacity both internally and with external audiences.

4.2 Continuously Improve Departmental Strategies for Managing Natural Resources

4.2.1 Integrated Resource Management (IRM)

The department defines Integrated Resource Management, or IRM, to be "a planning and decision-making process that involves the coordination of resource management policies, programs and activities so that long-term sustainable benefits are optimized and conflicts among resource users are minimized." An IRM process is used for Crown lands administered by DNR so that we are able to take into account the relationships between the various resource uses and the effects of management practices of one resource upon others.

Integrated resource management includes two major processes. The initial process inventoried special land features, uses and resource values, and incorporated these into databases, which led to the development of goals and objectives for Crown land. Based on the information identified, the land use planning process recognizes and conserves special land features and uses, optimizes long-term sustainable resource values, and minimizes conflicts.

A Long Range Management Framework (LRMF) is an ecologically based land use planning document. Each of the province's 39 ecodistricts will eventually be covered by an LRMF.

In September 2006, an interim long-range management framework guidebook was approved which will provide consistency and direction for Long-range Management Frameworks. This document will be continuously revised as the department learns new information during the development of the IRM project. The Procedural Guide for Ecological Landscape Analysis was approved for interim use by DNR staff during the year and work began on a similar guide for ecological landscape design.

4.2.2 Land Acquisition Strategy

When possible, the department acquires land that is added to the Crown land base. In recent years, acquisition opportunities have increased, the public is more aware of our limited public land base, and associated coastal access issues have taken on a higher profile. The focus for acquisitions has shifted from a sectoral approach to a department-wide holistic approach that attempts to balance regional needs. Funding was provided to enable several major land acquisitions that added to the Crown land base. The acquisitions not only supported biodiversity in Nova Scotia, but also resulted in significant economic, social and environmental values, including ecological, coastal, recreational, tourism, heritage and cultural values.

A priority for 2006-07 was the development of an action plan for land acquisitions, using the Coastal Land Acquisition Strategy, which was developed in 2005-06 to provide guidance and direction. Preliminary research was begun on the action plan, with further work deferred to enable the Province to pursue an opportunity for a major acquisition of lands from Bowater Mersey. The land acquisition, which was completed in March 2007, included 10,050 hectares of land valued at approximately $27 million. This was a significant undertaking and, as a result, work on the action plan originally scheduled for 2006-07 will take place during 2007-08.

4.2.3 Resource Strategy Development

During 2006-07, considerable effort was expended to develop the process for the Natural Resources Strategy. The strategy is to include four components: forests, minerals, parks and recreation and biodiversity. Approval of the strategy process and the announcement that the Natural Resources Strategy process would begin was made early in 2007-08.

Work on a number of documents to support the development of the strategy continued throughout the year. These documents included a State of the Forest Report and the Code of Forest Practice Guidebooks, as well as specific background information for each of the four areas to be covered by the strategy.

4.2.4 Legislative and Policy Framework Improvements

The department has an extensive legislative and policy framework that governs key areas of responsibility with respect to forests, minerals, parks, beaches, trails, wildlife and Crown land. This framework is made up of approximately 30 acts,

several hundred regulations, and numerous policies and procedures. This framework must be comprehensive, relevant and up-to-date.

The 2005 public review of sanctuaries and wildlife management areas indicated strong support for retaining existing ones and development of nine proposed new areas. In 2006-07, two new wildlife management areas were designated and new regulations were drafted for several other areas. The Brothers Islands, near Lower West Pubnico, Yarmouth County and Grassy Island, near Tancook Island, Lunenburg County, were designated wildlife management areas. These small coastal islands provide better protection for breeding seabirds, including the endangered roseate tern. To improve clarity and responding to public request, new and revised regulations include clear statements as to the purpose of the designations and specific habitat management measures and/or restrictions.

A number of regulations under the *Wildlife Act* were reviewed during 2006-07. The review was based on the results of wildlife populations monitoring, consultations with stakeholders, and feedback from DNR staff and was carried out by an internal committee composed of wildlife managers, enforcement personnel, licencing and legal staff. The results were recommendations for changes to the regulations that provided for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife.

In November 2006, the public was invited to comment on proposed changes to the Forest Sustainability Regulations, a set of regulations under the *Forests Act*. The changes, which were mainly of a technical nature, were proposed in order to improve long-term forest sustainability in the province, and to provide increased flexibility for conducting even-aged and uneven-aged silviculture on private lands. Twenty-three submissions were received before the deadline, including submissions from woodlot owners, silviculture contractors and people concerned about the environment.

4.2.5 Climate Change Impact Analysis

Climate can be viewed as the average weather over an extended period of time for a given geographic location or region. Weather conditions are measured by parameters such as temperature (high, low and average), precipitation and wind. Climate change can be viewed as a long-term shift in the climate of a specific location. The impacts of climate change in Nova Scotia could result in changes in many climate and weather variables, including maximum and minimum temperatures, season lengths, levels of precipitation, precipitation intensity, a rise in sea level and an increase in the number of intense storms.

Originally, the department was to prepare an analysis of the potential impacts of climate change on each of the department's areas of responsibility. However, as basic information on the potential impacts was already available, a more detailed and specific analysis in key areas was deemed necessary. A proposal to identify the potential impact of climate change on tree species growth and distribution was developed. Project findings will help to allow climate change impacts to be taken into account in the provincial wood supply forecasts, and will support the analysis of climate change impacts in other forest-related areas, such as reforestation, tree improvement, silviculture, fire/insect/disease, wildlife habitat and biodiversity. This project is to be carried out in 2007-08.

4.2.6 Off-highway Vehicles Action Plan Implementation

The government released its Action Plan for Off-highway Vehicles (OHV) in October 2005. The Action Plan includes measures to improve public safety, prevent damage to the environment, protect private property rights, and steps to be taken to provide increased enforcement with respect to OHV issues.

A number of regulations, under the *Off-highways Vehicles Act*, came into effect during 2006-07 (both new regulations and amended regulations):

- Off-highway Vehicles Vulnerable Areas Licensing Regulations (April 1, 2006)
- Off-highway Vehicle Infrastructure Fund Regulations (April 1, 2006)
- Off-highway Vehicles Closed Courses Regulations (October 17, 2006)
- Off-highway Vehicles Designated Trails and Trail Permits Regulations (December 8, 2006)
- Designation of Snow Vehicle Trails (February 19, 2007)
- Off-highway Vehicles Fees Regulations (was amended March 26, 2007 but became effective June 1, 2007)

Two other regulations were effective early in April 2007, but most of the work related to these regulations was done in 2006-07:

- Off-highway Vehicle Insurance Regulations (April 4, 2007)
- Off-highway Vehicles General Regulations (April 4, 2007)

In October 2006, the Ministers of Natural Resources and Health Promotion and Protection announced the appointment of an Off-highway Vehicle Ministerial Advisory Committee. The Committee consists of 14 voting members and 5 ex-officio members. Seventeen organizations / sectors are represented including:

the ATV Association of Nova Scotia, the Snowmobile Association of Nova Scotia, the Nova Scotia Trails Federation, the Tourism Industry Association of Nova Scotia, the Ecology Action Centre, enforcement officers, and private landowners.

Other OHV-related activities that took place during 2006-07 included:

- the establishment of a dedicate OHV enforcement unit within the department, and the hiring of 12 enforcement officers for the unit
- the hiring of a dedicated trail planner / coordinator
- the provision of a number of services to provide OHV-related information and education (OHV website, OHV user awareness campaign for safe and appropriate riding, background work necessary for the development of information brochures and pamphlets and the establishment of a toll-free telephone number for OHV inquiries) and
- Infrastructure Fund disbursements for trail development projects.

4.2.7 Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles

The Registry of Mineral and Petroleum Titles manages the province's mineral tenure management systems. Functions of the Registry include granting licences and leases to mineral rights applicants, keeping records of mineral rights disposition in the province, issuing licences, leases, notifications, releases and other documents related to the province's mineral tenure system and tracking expenditures reported by mineral rights holders.

Existing processes used by the Registry are primarily paper-based, supported with desk-top software tools, and available to clients only in the Registry office in Halifax. In order to operate efficiently, to comply with the province's move to e-business operations, to properly serve clients, and to be competitive with mineral tenure systems being implemented in other provinces, a significant modernization project was begun in 2006-07. When completed, the Registry system will be a completely digital system, with one key benefit being the provision of map-based remote access to the registry.

During 2006-07, staff met with representatives of software developers for the registry systems in use in Newfoundland and Labrador and British Columbia. Legislative and policy gaps between Nova Scotia and these jurisdictions were researched and possible solutions identified. Developers of these systems were informed of our call for proposals and had an opportunity to respond.

A Call for Proposals (and scenarios for the system's use) was developed by IT staff, Registry staff, and Mineral Resources Branch Geographic Information System (GIS) specialists during late 2006 / early 2007. A detailed analysis of the requirements for the GIS interface was undertaken by the project team and formed part of the Call for Proposals that was issued through the Public Tenders Office in March 2007.

4.3 Improve Internal Departmental Planning Processes and Management Systems

The department continued to work towards improvements in our internal planning systems and in the collection of information needed to make sound decisions for effective operations and for priority setting.

4.3.1 Business Continuity Planning

Business continuity planning is a pro-active planning process used to ensure the continued availability of essential programs and services in the event of a disruption caused by either humans or nature, and to allow a return to normal operations. A business continuity plan includes: plans, measures and arrangements to ensure the continuous delivery of critical services and products. This plan enables the organization to recover its facilities, data and assets, and to identify the necessary resources to support business continuity, including personnel, information, equipment, financial allocations, legal counsel, infrastructure protection and accommodations.

During 2006-07, the formal business continuity management process was started. A workshop was held to collect information on several of the department's key program areas. A critical stage of the business continuity management process is the "understanding the business" stage. During this stage, programs and services provided by an organization are identified. During 2006-07, a separate simultaneous initiative was also underway within government to consistently identify and describe programs being delivered. This initiative has continued into 2007-08. When information being prepared as part of this initiative is available, it will be used as the foundation for the development of the business continuity plan.

4.3.2 Infrastructure Maintenance and Replacement Plan

The department has an extensive range of infrastructure under its management, including buildings, parks and trails, information technology equipment, vessels, vehicles and helicopters. Our infrastructure plays an integral role in achieving

departmental goals and objectives within our mandated programs. In addition, the infrastructure is essential for providing effective program management and delivery, and for ensuring that safe workplaces and public facilities are available.

Much of this infrastructure is aging and, with finite resources limiting necessary re-investment, many items are being extended beyond their normal serviceable life. To manage the infrastructure into the future and to help to ensure that we have the necessary tools and services available for staff and the public, the department will develop a life-cycle management program. The program will include a strategic process to manage re-investment for infrastructure aimed at future sustainability.

In 2006-07, a new budget planning database was developed specific to the provincial parks program. The process provides a more comprehensive listing of infrastructure repairs, maintenance and upgrades and tracking of progress.

The annual parks budget was increased in 2006-07 to provide for up to $800,000 in expenditures on park improvement activities that included work at more than 30 provincial parks and encompassed a wide range of infrastructure. In addition to the usual water and septic issues that were dealt with, the department was able to make upgrades at the Shubenacadie Provincial Wildlife Park, and to assist in the development of the Greenwing Legacy Centre located at the Wildlife Park. Other initiatives included buildings repairs, trail development, and many smaller repair / maintenance items that added to the park experience.

In addition, the department was allocated $750,000 under the Tangible Capital Assets program, which was dedicated to major projects. The Tangible Capital Assets program addressed three separate components - McNabs Island, Beach Access, Campsite Redevelopment; all were valued at $250,000 each. McNabs Island projects included roof replacement to three historic buildings, removal of a condemned wharf and designs for the replacement wharf. Park redevelopment projects at Battery Provincial Park and Five Islands Provincial Park were undertaken during the year to construct new campsite loops to better meet the demands of campers today. Shoreline access at seven different locations was also upgraded or replaced to help to ensure a sustainable and safe access for beach goers.

4.3.3 Business Planning / Operational Planning Integration

Business planning in the department follows the guidelines provided by Treasury and Policy Board which reflect the standard business planning process used within the provincial government. Operational planning within the department has been ongoing for a number of years. Opportunities exist for the department's business

planning and operational planning processes to be better integrated, resulting in additional benefits derived from both.

Facilitated planning sessions were held in October 2006 and November 2006 to identify strategic direction and priorities for the 2007-08 fiscal year. Results of these sessions included a set of objectives, initiatives and actions that were used in the development of the business plan for the upcoming year. In previous years, performance measures reported in the business plan were grouped by core business areas. For the first time, in the 2007-08 business plan, measures were grouped by department goal. A number of performance measures that had been included in business plans in previous years that were of a more operational nature were dropped from the business plan. Although these measures will no longer be included in the business plan, many of them do provide important information and will continue to be tracked internally. Several new measures were added that will allow the department to better measure our success in accomplishing our goals.

At an operational level, the work plans used by the department's main program delivery branch, which covers most of the department's field offices, were revised and plans were developed for the 2007-08 fiscal year during the January to March 2007 time frame. Work also took place to develop operational level performance measures with data collection to begin in 2007-08.

4.4 Improve the Department's Work Environment and the Capacity of Staff to Deliver Programs and Services

4.4.1 Human Resources Framework

In response to the survey of staff within government that took place in 2004, as well as to support the Nova Scotia Corporate Human Resources Plan, a Human Resources Framework has been prepared for use in the department (and the other Resources Corporate Services Unit (RCSU) departments and client groups). This is a comprehensive framework that will play a vital role in the achievement of the department's overall strategic goals and objectives. The framework is divided into three sections: recruitment and retention, training and development and occupational health and safety.

A Recruitment and Selection Workshop was developed and piloted. In 2006-07, five workshops were offered to RCSU clients. Further workshops will commence in the Fall of 2007 when the recruitment standards are finalized with the Public Service Commission (PSC).

A member of the Senior Management team was appointed as Champion of a Recruitment and Hiring Work Team. The work team will be established in 2007-08, with one of the deliverables being a comprehensive departmental orientation program. Development of the Human Resource Section of the Orientation Program was completed.

A member of the Senior Management team was appointed as Champion of a Rewards and Recognition Work Team. Another staff person has been assigned the responsibility of Team Lead. The work team will be established and a rewards and recognition framework created for the department in 2007-08.

The Deputy Minister was appointed as Champion of a Career and Succession Management Work Team (this was re-assigned to another member of the Senior Management team in the fall of 2007-08). A work team will be established in 2007-08, with one of the deliverables being the coordination of a human resource planning process within the department.

A number of Ability Case Management Program Workshops were delivered during November 2006 to March 2007, with additional sessions held in 2007-08. A number of DNR employees also attended diversity management-related workshops offered through the RCSU and the PSC.

Implementation of a healthy workplace initiative in the department continued with various initiatives such as "lunch and learn" speakers and a weight program offered in Head Office. A model for a department-wide committee was developed and one will be established in 2007-08.

An internal, department-wide audit was conducted to assess the state of occupational health and safety compliance within the department. During the audit, which began in June 2006 and finished in the Fall of 2006, in excess of 200 department staff were interviewed. Overall, the results of the audit showed that the department is in a relatively high state of occupational health and safety compliance. However, several areas were identified where improvements would be desirable, and these will be addressed in 2007-08.

5 Financial Results

The department's 2006-07 net program expenditures estimate (after chargeables, fees and recoveries) was $65.8 million. Actual expenditures for the same period were $66.3 million.

Department of Natural Resources - Estimated Budget Expenditures *				
	2006-07			
	Estimate ($'000)	Actual ($'000)	Variance ($'000)	Notes
Ordinary Revenues	7,881	8,394	513	1
Net Program Expenses:				
• Senior Management	629	594	(35)	2
• Corporate Services Unit	7,194	7,368	174	3
• Renewable Resources	10,125	10,973	848	4
• Mineral Resources	3,258	3,321	63	5
• Regional Services	36,758	36,659	(99)	6
• Planning Secretariat	4,409	3,990	(419)	7
• Land Services	3,464	3,351	(113)	8
Total - Net Program Expenses	65,837	66,256	419	
TCA Purchase Requirements	18,900	35,130	16,230	9
Funded Staff (Full Time Equivalents)	885.4	858.6	(26.8)	10

* Note that the cost of services provided through the Resources Corporate Services Unit (financial, human resources, and information technology services) to a number of other government departments and agencies is included in the department's budget.

Notes:

1. Stora Enso harvested a higher percentage of their allowable annual cut on Crown lands, which led to additional stumpage revenue for the province.
2. Lower travel costs and general operating costs.
3. Higher expenditures for WCB claims.
4. Inventory adjustment.
5. Higher expenditures for professional services.
6. Lower expenditures for professional services.
7. Position vacancies and lower office rental costs and business occupancy taxes.
8. Position vacancies.
9. Higher due to additional approved land acquisitions including the Bowater purchase.
10. Position vacancies.

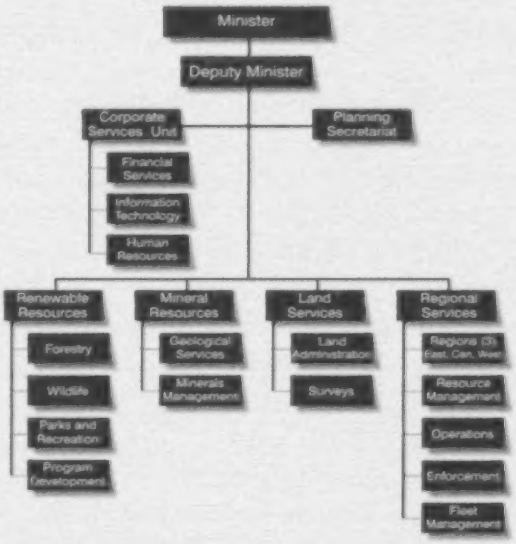
6 Performance Measures

The department has identified a number of performance measures that help track success in meeting our goals. Information on each measure is provided in an appendix to this document. A brief write-up is provided that indicates what each measure tells us, where we are now (2006-07 results), and where we want to be (future target values and target years). The data for each measure is generated within the department.

The department revised its current set of performance measures beginning with the measures that were reported in the 2007-08 Business Plan. There are significantly fewer measures and they are directly aligned with the department's goals, as opposed to the previous set of measures, which were grouped by core business areas.

7 Supplemental Information

During 2006-07, the department had broad responsibilities for the management of forest, mineral, parks and wildlife resources and the management of Crown lands. Nova Scotia's natural resources provide significant economic, social, cultural and environmental benefits for all Nova Scotians and are one of the province's features that make it an attractive place to live, do business in and visit.



The department's organization chart, which was unchanged from 2005-06, is shown to the right. The department consists of five branches, as well as the Resources Corporate Services Unit (RCSU). The RCSU provides financial, human resources and information technology services to the Department of Natural Resources, several other provincial government departments, and a number of agencies, boards and commissions.

Appendix - 2006-07 Performance Measures

The following pages provide brief explanations of the department's performance measures that were included in the 2006-07 Business Plan. Results are provided for the latest year data is available. Graphs are also provided for those measures where a graphical presentation of the data is appropriate.

As noted in Section 4.3.3, many of the performance measures included in the 2006-07 Accountability Report were not included in the department's 2007-08 Business Plan. Results for these measures will not be reported in the 2007-08 Accountability Report. A number of these measures did have targets that were set for years later than 2006-07. Although the results of the measures will no longer be reported in future accountability reports, data will continue to be collected for many of them.

Core Business Area 1 - Natural Resources Management

Outcome - Sound Natural Resources Stewardship

Measure 1 - Crown Land with Long Range Management Frameworks in Place
Just over one quarter of the province consists of provincial Crown lands. One key responsibility of the government is to manage this land wisely. Long-range management frameworks (LRMF) are being developed for all provincial Crown lands administered by the Department of Natural Resources. (Natural Resources is the department that administers most of the provincial Crown lands.)

What does the measure tell us?
Long-range management frameworks are being developed to provide a framework for Crown land management and land use decisions. These frameworks will provide a database of information and features for the area included within the plan, and the longer term objectives and goals for the planning area. The frameworks will recognize and consider the special land use features and values and the various interests in the use of Crown lands. These LRMFs will be important tools to help support sound decision making related to the use and management of Crown lands. The measure provides a clear indication of the department's progress in getting these frameworks in place.

Where are we now?
The province is categorized into 39 eco-districts. The LRMF for the Mulgrave Plateau eco-district was complete as of the end of March 2006. This LRMF was prepared as a pilot project and is being used as a model for the preparation of subsequent frameworks for other eco-districts. When LRMFs were first envisioned, the plan was that they would be prepared sequentially so that, as LRMFs were completed for ecodistricts, work would begin on LRMFs for other ecodistricts. Over time, the department has recognized the need to prepare LRMFs so they take into account relationships between adjacent ecodistricts. As a result, no other LRMFs have been completed since the current plan is for all frameworks to be completed simultaneously.

Where do we want to be?
Eventually each of the province's 39 eco-districts will be covered by LRMFs. The 2006-07 Business Plan set a target for this measure of 100% of Crown land to be covered by long range management frameworks by March 31, 2010. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Note that these LRMFs are not static documents; once the initial LRMFs are in place they will be subject to periodic reviews and potential revisions to take into account new information and changing circumstances.

Measure 2 - "Species at Risk" Partnerships in Place

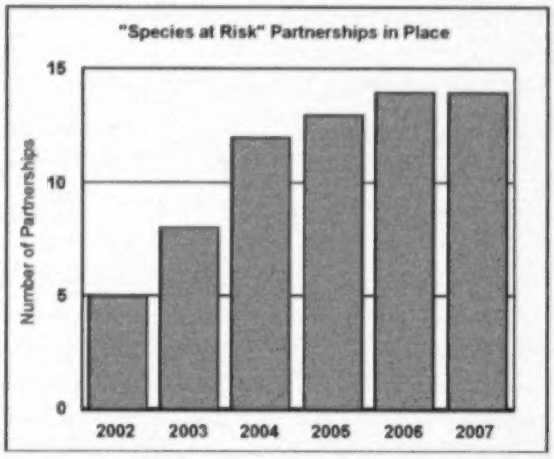
The Province is committed to the conservation and protection of species at risk provincially and nationally through the *Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act* and the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk*. Many of these commitments are made through voluntary stewardship efforts that are linked to government programs. These partnerships are key to the conservation of species at risk and other components of environmental health and contribute to sound natural resources stewardship.

What Does the Measure Tell Us?

This measure is an indicator of our efforts and success developing and maintaining stewardship partnerships for species at risk. As more groups and individuals are engaged in our formal efforts to conserve and protect species at risk we have an increased capacity to provide for their maintenance and recovery. The measure is expressed as the number of "major" partnerships in place for species at risk.

Where Are We Now?

The department had 14 major stewardship partnerships for species at risk in place as of March 31, 2007, the same number as the previous year.



Where Do We Want To Be?

Though the development and implementation of recovery plans for species at risk we are working to identify and build partnerships for all species listed under the *Endangered Species Act*. Our target for this measure, set in the 2006-07 Business Plan, is to have at least 15 partnerships in place as of March 31, 2010. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 3 - Wetland Influenced by Wetland Stewardship Agreements

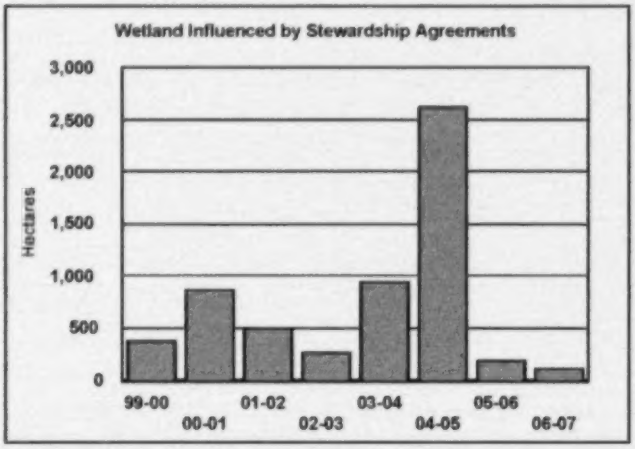
Wetlands represent less than 7% of the provincial land area yet provide significant environmental, social and cultural functions. Wetlands continue to be lost and degraded through urban and industrial growth, inappropriate land use activities and development of transportation and energy corridors. With approximately 72% of the province privately owned, the involvement of landowners in the stewardship of this resource is critical. Stewardship can involve agreements for the restoration and management of wetlands on private land, modification of land use activities to benefit wetlands and wildlife, or the transfer of ownership.

What does the measure tell us?

The measure is the area of wetland and associated wildlife habitat influenced by stewardship agreements concluded during that year, expressed in hectares annually. It provides information on agreements with private landowners related to restoration and/or management of wetlands, or the transfer of land ownership to a wetlands-based partnership of conservation organizations.

Where are we now?

There were 110 hectares of wetlands influenced by wetland stewardship agreements concluded during 2006-07. A target of 243 hectares had been set. Note that the "owners unknown process" contributed to a significant jump in the 2004-05 value. The owners of some properties listed on the assessment roll are unknown. DNR is able to purchase these properties by paying the outstanding taxes and an extra amount for expenses (subject to certain specific conditions).



Where do we want to be?

These stewardship agreements frequently involve large, discrete blocks of land so it is difficult to accurately forecast where we want to be in the future, other than increasing the area covered by agreements. Nova Scotia's wetland conservation initiatives benefit through the department's involvement in the North American Waterfowl Management Plan. The delivery mechanism of the Plan in Eastern Canada is the Eastern Habitat Joint Venture (EHJV). The NS-EHJV is a cooperative partnership involving various provincial agencies; Canadian Wildlife Service; Wildlife Habitat Canada; Ducks Unlimited Canada; Nature Conservancy of Canada; local non-government agencies; state, federal and non-government agencies in the United States; industry and private landowners. Success in meeting the target depends upon a combination of available funding through the partnership and land owners willing to participate in agreements. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 4 - Registered Buyers Participating in Forest Sustainability Agreements

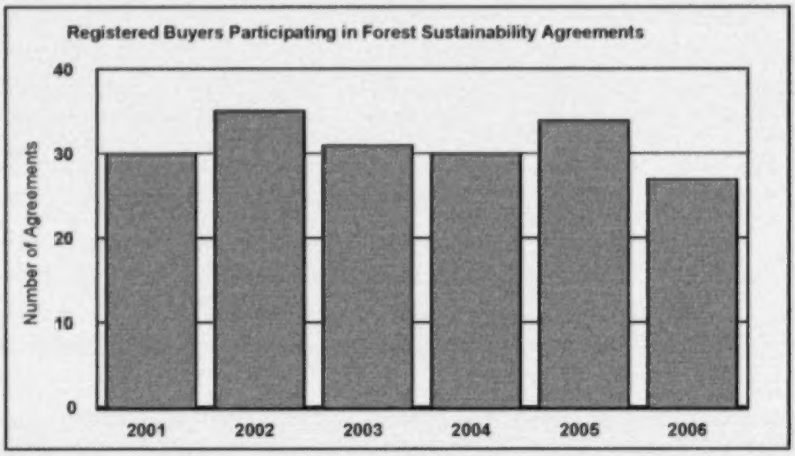
One measure which gives an indication of private sector commitment to support private woodlot owners in the management of their woodlots is the "number of registered buyers participating in forest sustainability agreements".

What does the measure tell us?

Registered buyers, under the Forest Sustainability Regulations of the *Forests Act*, are responsible for ensuring that the required amount of silviculture work is completed on private lands. Forest sustainability agreements are government/private sector funded silviculture programs that offer funding to private woodlot owners. The number of registered buyers that participate in forest sustainability agreements indicates the level of support for carrying out activities needed to help to yield a sustainable supply of wood fibre that comes from private woodlots, and that proper forest management techniques are adopted by woodlot owners who supply registered wood buyers with wood.

Where are we now?

For the calendar year 2006, there were 27 registered buyers that participated in forest sustainability agreements.



Where do we want to be?

The target for this measure is 40 agreements in place by the end of 2008. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 5 - Natural Resources Stewardship Training at the Wildlife Park

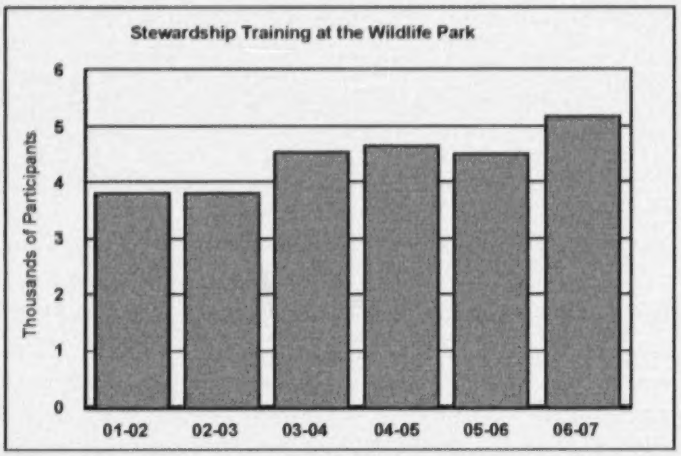
Providing natural resources related education to the public and helping the public to better understand relevant issues helps to promote sound natural resources stewardship.

What does this measure tell us?

This measure records the number of teachers and students who receive training in wildlife education programs at the Provincial Wildlife Park in Shubenacadie. This training is delivered on-site in a classroom at the Wildlife Park in combination with the captive indigenous wildlife at the Park and is an integral part of the provincial science curriculum. The annual number of students and teachers participating in the various programs offered at the facility is a good indicator of the level of training in wildlife education provided to educators and young people. Annual attendance figures also give an indication of overall satisfaction with the delivery and content of the programs.

Where are we now?

The number of students and teachers who received natural resources related stewardship training at the Provincial Wildlife Park during 2006-07 was 5,166 individuals, up approximately 15% from the number trained the previous year.



Where do we want to be?

A target of 10,000 individuals receiving training during 2009-10 has been set for this measure. It is anticipated that in-service training and professional development workshops for teachers, improved educational programs for school and youth groups, and the new wetland interpretative centre will lead to an increase in this measure over time.

Measure 6 - Natural Resources Stewardship Training at the Natural Resources Education Centre

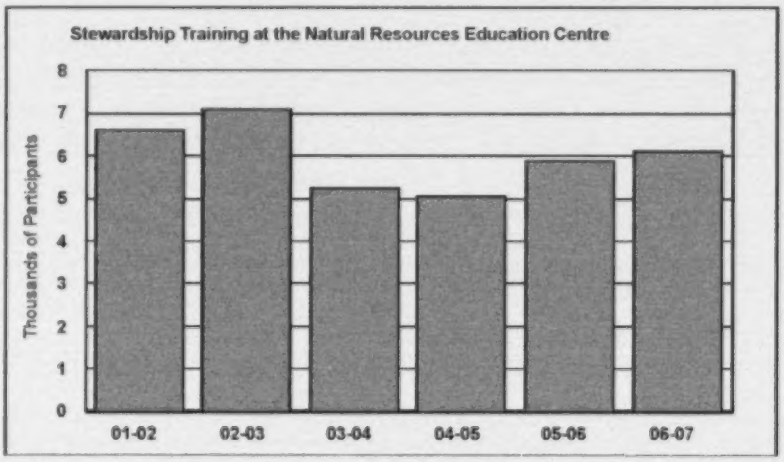
Providing natural resources stewardship training to educators and youth helps to expose these groups to important concepts that they may use and pass along to others.

What does the measure tell us?

The measure reflects the number of teachers, adult leaders, students and youth who have participated in one of the natural resources programs at the Natural Resources Education Centre (NREC) annually. The programs involve pre- and post-visit activities as well as interactive activities as part of the visit to the Centre. Through the Centre and its programs, participants gain a heightened understanding of natural resource issues which contributes to the development of a stewardship ethic.

Where are we now?

During 2006-07, there were 6,111 persons who participated in training through the Natural Resources Education Centre, up 4% from the previous year.



Where do we want to be?

The department's target for this measure is 8,000 individuals annually by 2009-10. While a sustained increase in the number of participants is desirable in future years, an increased effort is being placed on reaching teachers, students, youth and youth educators who reside outside of the core service area (which is within a one hour drive of the NREC) through the provision of distance-learning support, in-service training, and outreach activities.

Measure 7 - Age of Forest Resource Data

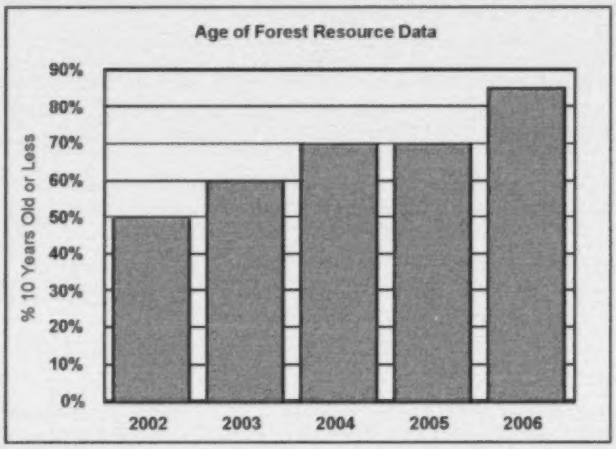
Sound stewardship of our forest resources is dependent upon the availability of accurate and timely information on the characteristics of these resources. Forests change regularly through management, harvesting and disturbance by pests and fire. It is important to have current information available to resource managers. The provincial forest inventory system provides this information for Nova Scotia on all land ownerships. This measure reports on the percentage of the province for which forest resource data is ten years old or less.

What does this measure tell us?

The frequency that forest information is updated is important. This measure tells how much of the province is meeting the target update cycle of every ten years. Updating the forest resource data consists of three major activities: aerial photographs are taken of approximately 10% of the province, staff interpret these photographs, and finally, the results are stored electronically in a geographic information system (GIS).

Where are we now?

For the calendar year 2006, the percentage of the province for which forest resource data was ten years old or less was 85%. Updates of Halifax and Hants counties were completed during the year while updates of Colchester and Cumberland counties were underway.



Where do we want to be?

The target value for this measure is 100% of the province with forest resource data ten years or less old and we anticipate attaining this value by the end of 2007. Our intention is to continue to modify and improve the forest inventory system to enable the department to maintain a ten-year repeat cycle so that 10% of the province is updated each year. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 8 - Age of Geological Maps

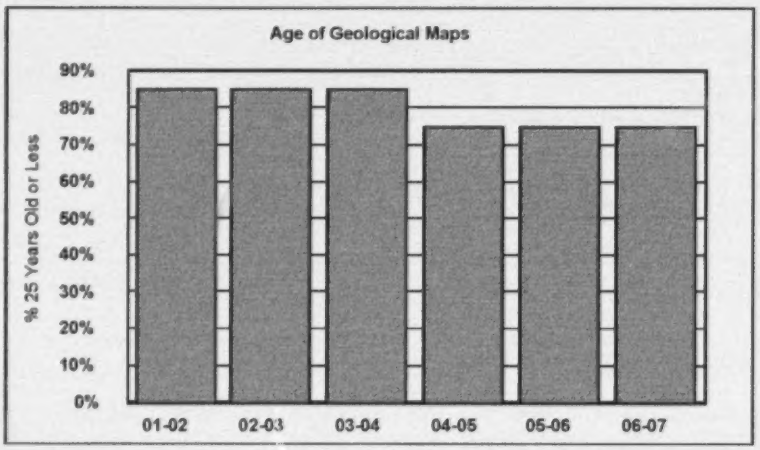
It is widely accepted in the minerals and hydrocarbons exploration communities that maps that are greater than 25 years old do not reflect advancements in the geological sciences and are, therefore, less useful in exploration for resources. The availability of up-to-date maps for all areas of the province shows that the department is conducting an active mapping program and is supporting the users of these geological maps, including the mineral industry. This measure reports on the percentage of the province for which geological maps are less than 25 years old.

What does this measure tell us?

This measure tells us the degree of currency of geological maps produced by the department, which is based on geoscience mapping projects throughout the province. These maps are used by private sector companies to support their exploration programs.

Where are we now?

During 2006-07, 75% of the province was covered by geological maps less than 25 years old, the same figure that was reported for 2005-06.



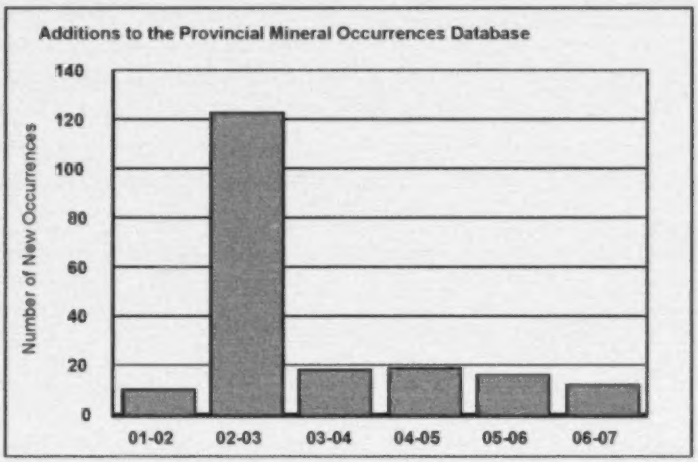
Where do we want to be?

The department's target for 2006-07 was for 85% of the province to be covered by geological maps less than 25 years old. Revisions to maps will continue to take place as geoscience mapping projects generate new or updated information. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 9 - New Mineral Occurrences Added to the Provincial Mineral Occurrences Database
Information is acquired through the department's geoscience program and from required submissions by private sector companies exploring in Nova Scotia. The cumulative result of this effort is a comprehensive provincial geological and mineral deposit database, which is required by the private sector for the selection of exploration targets and development of exploration strategies.

What does this measure tell us?
This is a measure of the department's level of annual progress in acquiring information on newly discovered mineral occurrences throughout the province and the level of effort devoted to entering this information in the occurrences database.

Where are we now?
During 2006-07, 12 new mineral occurrences were added to the provincial mineral occurrences database, which was less than the target of 16 occurrences for the year. During 2002-03 the number of occurrences entered jumped significantly as a number of previously discovered occurrences were entered into the database.



Where do we want to be?
The department had a target of 15 new occurrences for 2006-07 (note that there is the potential for large variations from year to year in this measure). Although this target was not reached for new occurrences, there were numerous updates of iron-oxide-copper-gold (IOCG) occurrences in central Nova Scotia. Many of these updates require as much effort as adding new occurrences. Occurrences will continue to be added or revised as new information is acquired through the department's geoscience program. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 10 - Age of Aggregate Resource Information

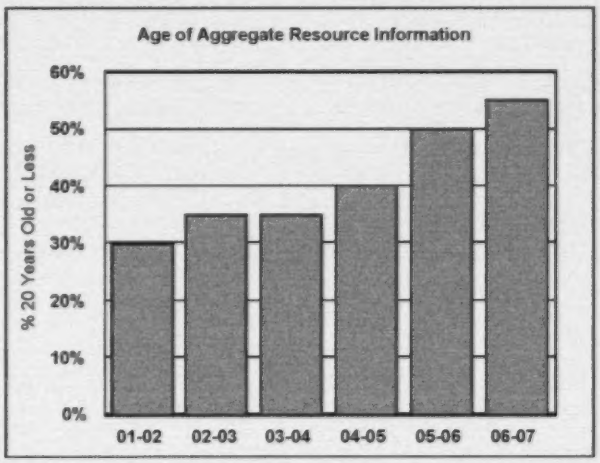
Aggregate is a key commodity used by the construction industry and supports economic development throughout the province. Forecasts for infrastructure development (highways, urban roads, residential and commercial construction) suggest that the demand for high quality aggregate will increase markedly in the next decade. This measure reports on the percentage of the province for which aggregate resource information is less than 20 years old.

What does this measure tell us?

This measure tells us the degree of currency of information on the province's aggregate resources. The availability of up-to-date aggregate resource information province-wide shows that the department is actively locating and cataloguing new deposits.

Where are we now?

During 2006-07, the percentage of the province for which aggregate resource information was less than 20 years old was 55%, up from the figure of 50% reported for 2005-06.



Where do we want to be?

The department's target for 2006-07 was for 50% of the province to have information on aggregate resources less than 20 years old. This target was achieved. Locating, cataloging and describing aggregate resources, especially in areas of the province where aggregate resources are needed to support economic development opportunities, will result in an increase in the value of this measure. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Outcome - Conservation of Ecosystem Function

Measure 11 - Compliance with the *Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations*
The *Wildlife Habitat and Watercourses Protection Regulations* (under the *Forests Act*) were developed to maintain fish and wildlife habitats and water quality in and near forest harvesting operations on all lands. There are three requirements in the Regulations: reduced harvesting along watercourses in Special Management Zones, clumps of living trees left standing in the harvest site and large pieces of woody debris left evenly scattered over the site.

What does the measure tell us?
The percentage of harvesting operations that meet the legal standards is a measure of how well natural environments are being protected and also a measure of the forest operators' knowledge of the Regulations and their commitment to environmental stewardship. A sample of harvest sites is visited to measure compliance with the Regulations.

Where are we now?
The Regulations became effective on January 14, 2002. During 2002-03 the department concentrated on extension activities to explain the regulations. Visits to a random sample of sites in 2004-05 (sites harvested shortly after implementation of the regulations) showed 29% in full compliance.

Some sites were monitored in 2006-07; however results are not comparable to the results from the 2004-05 monitoring, given that a different method was used.

The next random site monitoring is planned for 2007-08. In the meantime, an intensive program of landowner and forest operator contact is taking place to ensure that knowledge of the regulations is as high as possible.

Where do we want to be?
The department's target was to have 90% compliance by 2004-05. The department's new target for this measure is 90% compliance by 2007-08. Over 80% of the monitored sites had legacy clumps and over 90% had special management zones (where required). However, many of the legacy clumps were not in compliance with the Regulations because not enough trees had been left or they were the wrong species and many of the special management zones were too narrow. The department is attempting to increase the level of compliance by carrying out more on-site educational visits and by being less lenient when violations are discovered.

Measure 12 - Park Area Meeting IUCN Protection and Natural Areas Criteria

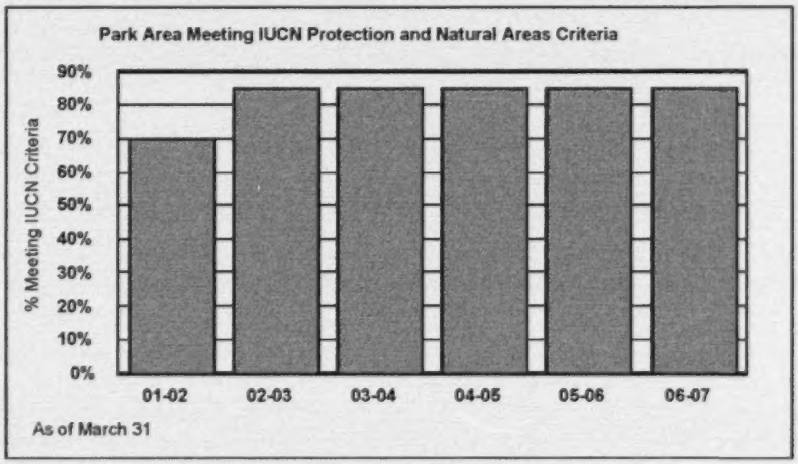
The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is a worldwide organization whose mission is "to influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable".

What does this measure tell us?

The commitment to land conservation is reflected in the percentage of designated provincial parks land that meets the IUCN criteria for contributing to the protection of natural areas. The IUCN criteria is an international standard for ecosystem conservation.

Where are we now?

As of March 31, 2007, 85% of provincial park area met the IUCN criteria, which was unchanged from the previous year.



Where do we want to be?

The department's target for this measure is 85% and is based on maintaining the existing level of ecosystem conservation contributed by the provincial parks at its current level. Additional park properties will be evaluated using the IUCN criteria as they are considered for designation under the *Provincial Parks Act*. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 13 - Active Mine Sites Practicing Progressive Reclamation

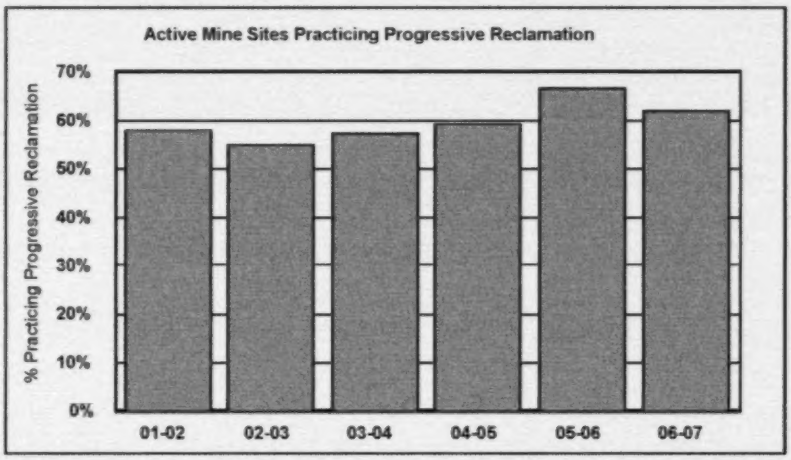
Reclamation activities allow the restoration of natural ecosystems. Progressive reclamation is continuous reclamation and rehabilitation of mining lands as mining operations continue. Final reclamation is conducted after mining is completed. Progressive reclamation dramatically reduces the amount of land that must be reclaimed at the end of a mining operation.

What does the measure tell us?

The measure represents the percentage of mining operations conducting some form of progressive reclamation (or with progressive reclamation in their operating plans). It is a comparison of the number of operating mines in Nova Scotia that are undertaking land reclamation compared to the total number of mines operating in the province. Operating mines are defined under the *Mineral Resources Act* and do not include pits and quarries used for extracting sand and gravel or crushed rock.

Where are we now?

During 2006-07, 62% of the province's active mining operations were utilizing some form of progressive reclamation.



Where do we want to be?

The department had identified a target of 65% for this measure for 2006-07. Ideally the department would like to see all mining operations utilizing progressive reclamation. However, this expectation is unrealistic because underground mines do not operate on the surface, require access to all the facilities throughout the life of the mine, and cannot reclaim surface lands until mining operations are complete. Also, some surface mines started long before progressive reclamation became a common practice. These mines find themselves constrained by past mining plans and operations so that they cannot implement large-scale progressive reclamation. The *Mineral Resources Act* requires that all active mines be reclaimed and the government holds a reclamation bond for each mining operation approved under the *Mineral Resources Act*. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Outcome - Species Diversity

Measure 14 - Endangered and Threatened Species with Recovery Plans in Place

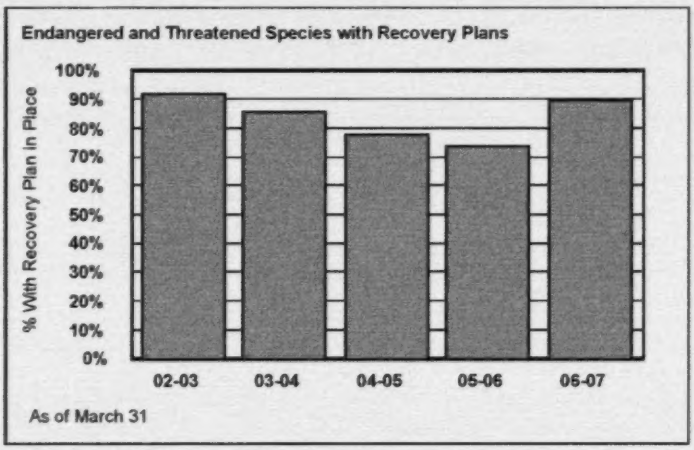
The department is committed to the conservation and protection of species at risk, provincially and nationally, through the *Nova Scotia Endangered Species Act* and the *Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk*.

What does the measure tell us?

The measure is a straight forward indication of how much work is being done on restoring the health of endangered (and threatened) species. Recovery plans are the focal instrument for addressing the recovery needs for species at risk and guide governments, recovery teams and others, in their conservation efforts, and are now being prepared as required in the *Endangered Species Act*. Recovery plans establish, for each endangered and threatened species, what needs to be done, how much it will cost, when it will be done and who will do the work. The plans also set goals for what is required to down-list a species at risk and establish a strategy for attaining these goals. To down-list a species means to move it to a lower risk category, such as from endangered to threatened. New species are listed periodically under the *Endangered Species Act*. Recovery plans are required to be in place for each endangered species within one year after the species was listed as being endangered, and within two years for those species listed as being threatened.

Where are we now?

As of March 31, 2007, 20 species were listed as either endangered or threatened. Of these 20 species, 19 of them were required to have a recovery plan in place by March 31, 2007 and 17 of them, or 89%, did have a recovery plan in place as of that date. Information on the province's species at risk can be found at http://www.gov.ns.ca/natr/wildlife/biodiv/specieslist.htm.



Where do we want to be?

Our target was to have required recovery plans in place for all (100%) species listed under the Act by 2006-07 or sooner. However, there were still several species where recovery plans were not fully in place. Our target for future years is also 100%. Completed recovery plans are also revised occasionally as new information becomes available.

Outcome - Public Safety

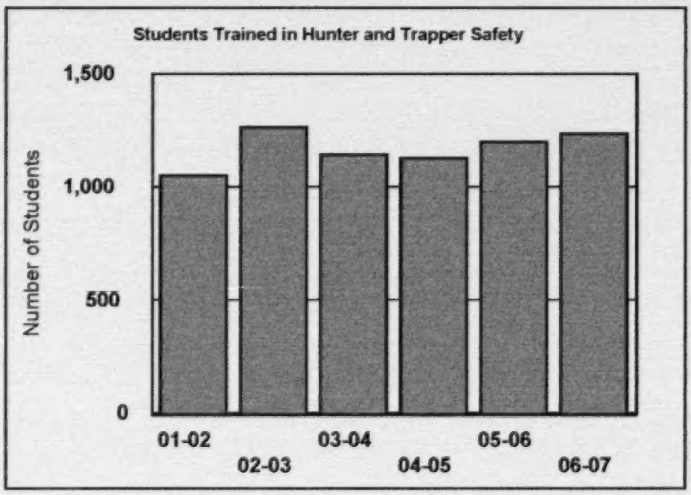
Measure 15 - Students Successfully Trained in Hunter and Trapper Safety

The mandatory training requirements for persons who wish to hunt provides for public safety by ensuring that persons who do hunt are trained in the safe handling, storage and transportation of a firearm or bow and that they understand the Provincial hunting laws. Additionally, these courses provide them with instruction in field safety, and wildlife conservation and identification, and promote respect for private lands and landowner concerns, as well as the development of positive hunter ethics.

What does the measure tell us?

This measure tracks the number of persons who are trained each year in hunter safety and trapper education courses. Any resident of Nova Scotia who wishes to hunt with a firearm or a bow in the province is required to take a hunter education course or a bowhunter education course. A trapper education course is required for those persons who wish to obtain a trappers license.

Where are we now?



The delivery of the Nova Scotia hunter education course is coordinated for the department by the Nova Scotia Federation of Anglers and Hunters while the bowhunter education course is delivered through the Bowhunter Instructors Association of Nova Scotia. The trapper education course is delivered through the Trappers Association. During 2006-07 there were 1,004 persons who completed the hunter education course training, 163 persons who completed the bowhunter education course and 75 individuals who took the trapper education course. The total number trained was 1,244 persons during 2006-07, up approximately 3% from the 1,204 persons who received training the previous year.

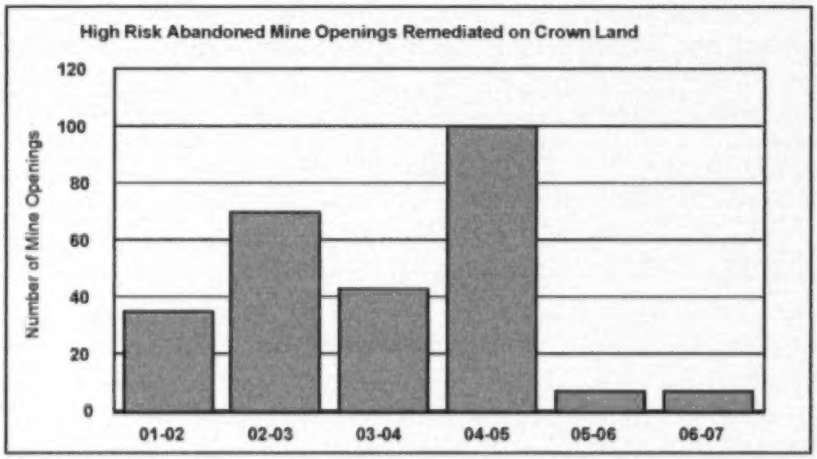
Where do we want to be?

The department has identified a target of 1,150 individuals receiving hunter and trapper training in 2008-09. This target was exceeded in 2006-07; however the number of individuals trained each year fluctuates. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 16 - High Risk Abandoned Mine Openings Remediated on Crown Lands
Remediation means securing the mine opening by capping, filling, or fencing. By remediating abandoned mine openings, the department decreases the risk to those people traveling over or working on Crown lands.

What does the measure tell us?
The department is working to locate abandoned mine openings and safeguard the public from the hazards associated with these openings. The measure of work performed is the number of abandoned mine openings remediated each year. The number of openings remediated varies year to year depending on the site specific conditions of the openings.

Where are we now?
During 2006-07, seven high risk abandoned mine openings were remediated, including one where access to bat habitat was maintained through the use of a grate barrier. The target for 2006-07 was 16 openings remediated.



The number of abandoned mine openings remediated in the last two years has been lower than the numbers remediated in the early part of the decade. In recent years, the department has been working on more challenging openings, and in areas with a lower density of abandoned mine openings. The 2004-05 statistics were enhanced by the backfilling of 60 mine openings through a partnership arrangement with a company conducting forest harvesting operations on a block of Crown land that was a former mining area. This was a welcome, though exceptional, occurrence which has not been repeated to date. As well, three technically challenging and expensive closures were completed in recent years, which consumed much of the financial and other resources available for abandoned mine opening remediation work.

Where do we want to be?
Eventually the department would like to have all identified abandoned mine openings on Crown land remediated. In the short term we are concentrating on remediating the high risk abandoned mine openings located on Crown land. The department's target is 28 mine openings remediated during 2007-08. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Outcome - Effective Management of Resource Supply

Measure 17 - Silviculture Investment on Private Land

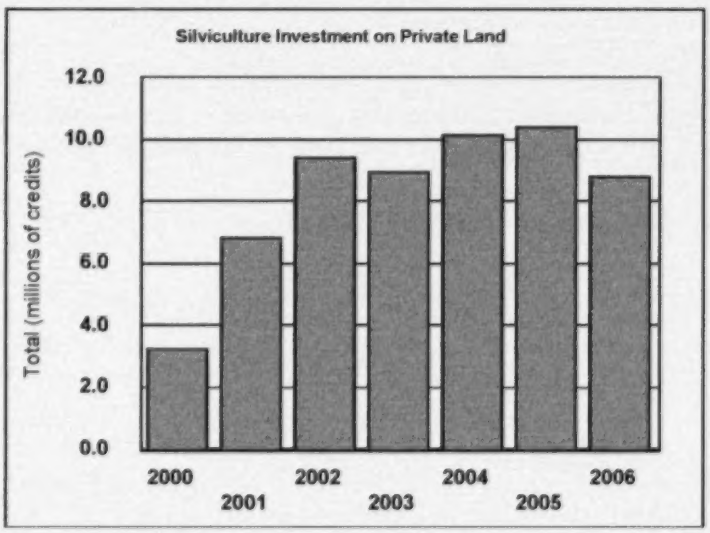
This measure gives a quantitative measure of silviculture activity. Based on how the program that funds this silviculture activity operates, a silviculture credit value is used instead of a dollar amount.

What does the measure tell us?

This measure has been modified to give a more accurate reflection of the level of silviculture activity taking place. The measure is a sum of completed silviculture claimed for private lands reported to the Registry of Wood Buyers, plus the amount of silviculture activity funded by the Association for Sustainable Forestry. The measure using silviculture credits indicates the value of total silviculture activity rather than the actual costs to achieve that level of silviculture activity. Different silviculture treatments are given different silviculture credit values on a per hectare basis.

Where are we now?

For the calendar year 2006, there were 8.8 million silviculture credits for silviculture activities on small private woodlots, down from the 10.4 million credits recorded in 2005 and just slightly below the 2006 target of 9.0 million silviculture credits.



Where do we want to be?

Our target for this measure for 2006 was a total value of 9.0 million silviculture credits to support silviculture activities on small private woodlots. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 18 - Required Value of Silviculture on Private and Industrial Lands Completed

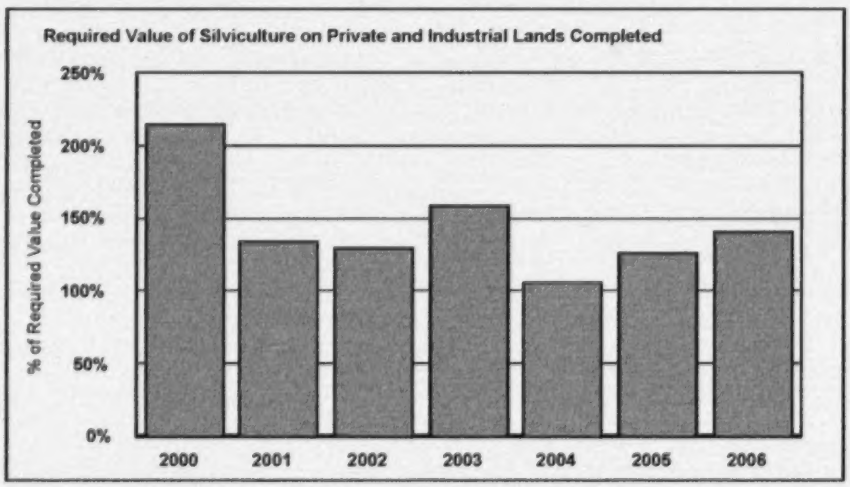
Wood supply sustainability can be managed effectively through an aggressive silviculture program. The department monitors wood harvesting and forecasts long-term wood supply by incorporating both harvesting and silviculture data into the forecast. During the last decade there has been much pressure placed on private woodlots to support the provincial demand for wood. Maintaining an adequate level of silviculture will help to provide for a future supply of wood on private woodlots.

What does this measure tell us?

The measure helps to explain whether the level of silviculture activity being reported by wood buyers exceeds the required amount (as per the requirements of the *Forest Sustainability Regulations*). A ratio of 100% means that the level of silviculture reported equals the amount of silviculture activity required under the *Forest Sustainability Regulations*.

Where are we now?

During the calendar year 2006, approximately 11.6 million silviculture credits were required and about 16.3 million credits were claimed. As a result, completed silviculture was 140% of the amount required under the *Forest Sustainability Regulations*.



Where do we want to be?

The department's target for this measure for 2006 was 100% or greater (this measure is calculated on a calendar year basis). As long as this measure exceeds 100%, the amount of actual silviculture work being claimed is greater than the amount which is required (under the *Forest Sustainability Regulations*). Each year the target for this measure will remain at 100% or greater.

Measure 19 - Review of Hunting / Trapping Regulations

The sustainable and equitable use of harvested wildlife species can be partially achieved with a frequent review of the wildlife regulations which provide the legal framework for hunting and trapping activities.

What does the measure tell us?

The outcome is expressed as the percent of the total regulations under the *Wildlife Act* which were reviewed during the fiscal year. This review is based on the monitoring of wildlife populations, consultations with stakeholders and feedback from DNR staff and is carried out by an internal committee composed of wildlife managers, enforcement personnel, licensing and legal staff. This wildlife regulations committee reviews these inputs for all regulations under the *Wildlife Act* and provides recommendations for changes to provide for the conservation and sustainable use of wildlife. Hunting and trapping opportunities contribute to provincial economic activity and quality of life for Nova Scotians while providing sustainable wildlife populations.

Where are we now?

For 2006-07, 100% of the (relevant) regulations were reviewed.

Where do we want to be?

The department's target was 100% for this measure for 2006-07. A mechanism is currently in place to review 100% of the relevant wildlife regulations on an annual basis and our target for this measure is to maintain our capacity to review 100% of the regulations with meaningful information related to biological, stakeholder and public inputs. Wildlife population data, stakeholder interests and public demands need to be effectively collected and analyzed in order to make effective recommendations for changes. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 20 - Review of Mineral Related Acts and Regulations
The province's mineral resources are administered using a number of acts and regulations.

What does this measure tell us?
Ensuring that the department's regulatory framework for minerals is as up to date as possible will result in efficient and streamlined processes for the department and its clients.

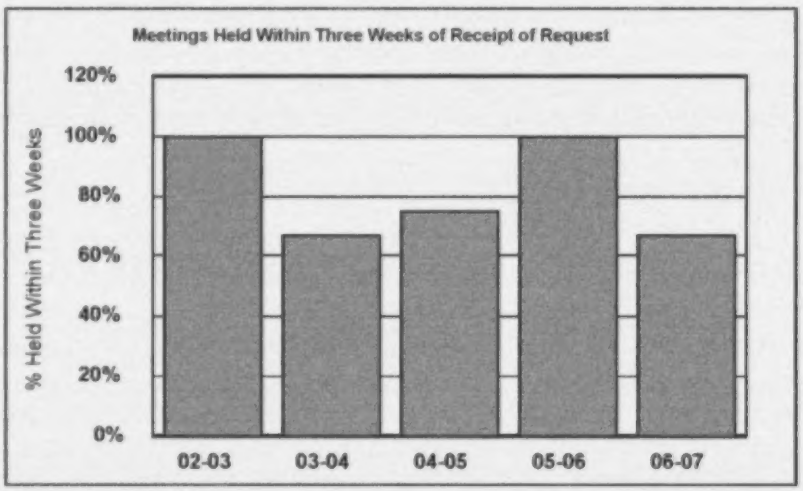
Where are we now?
During 2006-07, 100% of the department's mineral related acts and regulations had been reviewed during the previous five years.

Where do we want to be?
The department's target for this measure for 2006-07 was to maintain a level of 100%. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 21 - "One Window" Meetings Held Within Three Weeks of Receipt of Request
The "One Window" process formalizes how the various government departments, involved in reviewing mine development activities, function as a committee to make the review process more efficient and effective for both government and the mining industry. The process includes initial meetings with government representatives; registration and completion of the Environmental Assessment process; and application and submission of information for the necessary mineral rights, permits and approvals. The "One Window" process also monitors ongoing mining operations through regular meetings of government representatives.

What does this measure tell us?
This measure tells us the department's success at providing timely decision making with respect to mineral development projects. The measure reports the percentage of "One Window" Interdepartmental Committee meetings held within three weeks of receipt of a request.

Where are we now?
During 2006-07, 67% of the "One Window" Interdepartmental Committee meetings were held within three weeks of the receipt of a request (or on dates later than three weeks that were specifically requested by proponents in order to accommodate their schedule). One meeting was scheduled beyond the three week period in order to accommodate other regulatory bodies with previous commitments.



Where do we want to be?
The department's target for this measure for 2006-07 was 100%. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Outcome - Awareness of Resource Development Opportunities

Measure 22 - Parks Related Partnerships

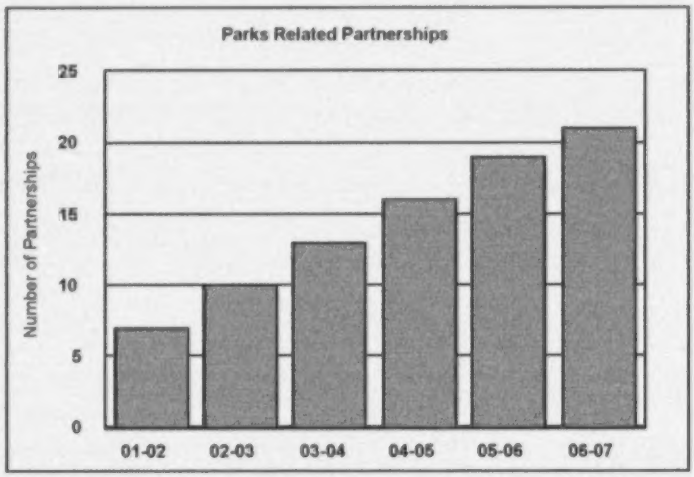
Through promoting and arranging parks related partnership agreements, and tracking the number in existence, the department can measure the growth in the availability of outdoor recreation opportunities.

What does the measure tell us?

The number of parks related partnerships indicates the level of community participation in partnership arrangements with the department to develop the province's natural outdoor recreation resources.

Where are we now?

As of March 31, 2007 there were 21 partnership arrangements in place to assist the department in managing and delivering various outdoor recreation opportunities, up from 19 at the end of the previous year.



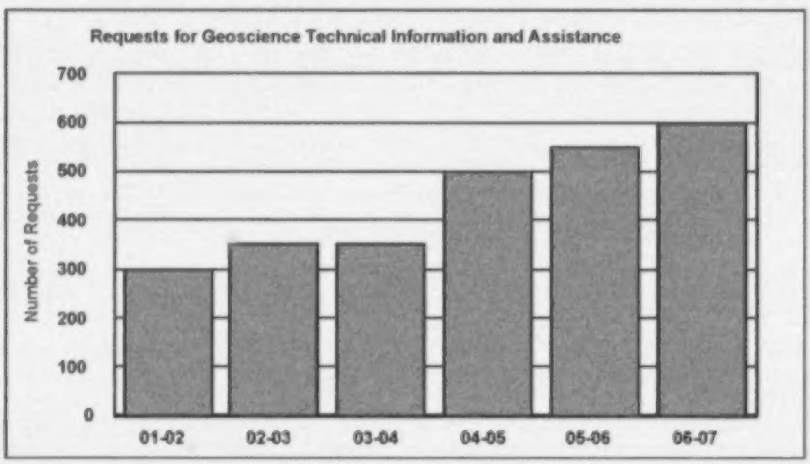
Where do we want to be?

No specific numeric target was originally set for this measure. However, directionally, the department had wanted to increase the number of parks related partnership arrangements in place. Additional partners at the community level will contribute to an expansion of the provincial park system and provide new economic development related opportunities throughout the province. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 23 - Requests for Geoscience Related Technical Information and Assistance
The level of exploration in Nova Scotia by the private sector for new mineral and hydrocarbon resources at any given time is a reflection of the interaction of a number of variables, with many of these variables outside the province's sphere of influence. What can be done is to monitor activities which are intended to increase the awareness by government departments, regional development agencies, prospectors, developers and mining companies of mineral and hydrocarbon resource development opportunities in the province.

What does this measure tell us?
One such activity is promoting and providing easy access to the professional expertise of departmental geologists, who provide information, advice and counsel. By recording the levels of this activity, the department measures the awareness of the province's mineral and hydrocarbon potential by the resource industry and their level of interest. Year-by-year increases in requests for information are indications that (1) more clients are aware of the department's expertise and (2) clients consider the information and advice to be credible and useful.

Where are we now?
During 2006-07, an estimated 600 requests for information and technical assistance were received by staff, up from the previous year. The figure exceeded the 2005-06 target of 400 requests received, and is one indicator of the increased interest in the province's geological resources seen in recent years.

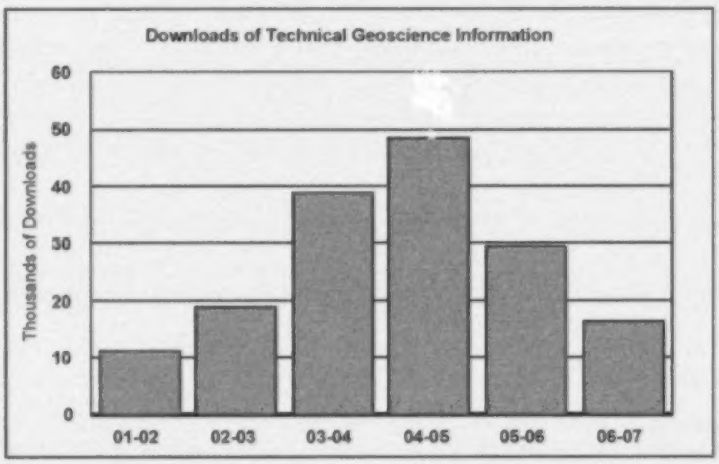


Where do we want to be?
Many factors determine the actual number of requests received so it is difficult to accurately set a target for this measure. It is also difficult to consistently define requests and to track them accurately. As a result, this measure is no longer included in the department's business plan. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 24 - Downloads of Technical Geoscience Information from the Departmental Website
The level of exploration in Nova Scotia by the private sector for new mineral and hydrocarbon resources at any given time is a reflection of the interaction of a number of variables, with many of these variables outside the province's sphere of influence. What can be done is to monitor activities which are intended to increase the awareness by prospectors, developers, and mining companies of mineral and hydrocarbon resource development opportunities in the province. One such activity is promoting and providing easy access to a comprehensive provincial geological and mineral deposit database, which is required by the private sector for the selection of exploration targets and development of exploration strategies.

What does this measure tell us?
By recording the levels of this activity, the department measures the awareness of the province's mineral and hydrocarbon potential by the resource industry and their level of interest. The significance of monitoring downloads of data, rather than the number of visits to the website, is that it is an indication that explorationists may be using the database in making decisions about their exploration targets and plans.

Where are we now?
Approximately 16.3 thousand digital data downloads were recorded in 2006-07. This has fallen significantly in recent years; however, the data for previous years includes people who viewed information, but did not necessarily download it.



Where do we want to be?
The department's target for this measure for 2006-07 was 30.0 thousand digital downloads. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Outcome - Recreational Opportunities

Measure 25 - Area of Designated Provincial Parks

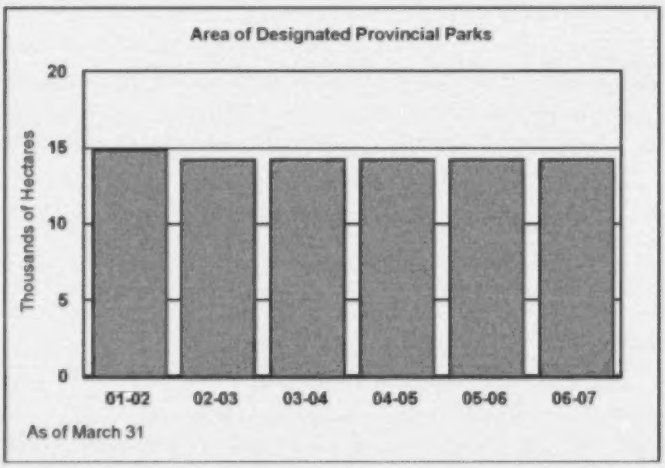
This measures the availability of outdoor recreational opportunities by reporting how much land has been designated for park use.

What does the measure tell us?

This measure tracks the area of land designated under the *Provincial Parks Act*. The amount of area of designated parks indicates the provincial commitment to maintaining lands for recreational opportunities and managing these lands accordingly.

Where are we now?

As of March 31, 2007 there were 14,200 hectares of lands that were designated as either parks or park reserves under the *Provincial Parks Act*, which was unchanged from the previous year. This figure is slightly lower than the 2001-02 figure; however, this is due to a recalculation of the number of park properties and their areas in the database that tracks this information.



Where do we want to be?

No specific numeric target was originally set for this measure for 2006-07. However, directionally the department's target was to maintain or increase the area. There are expected to be slight increases to this figure over time with the addition of purchased properties adjacent to existing park properties or if new parks are designated. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 26 - Length of Trails in Parks and on Crown Lands

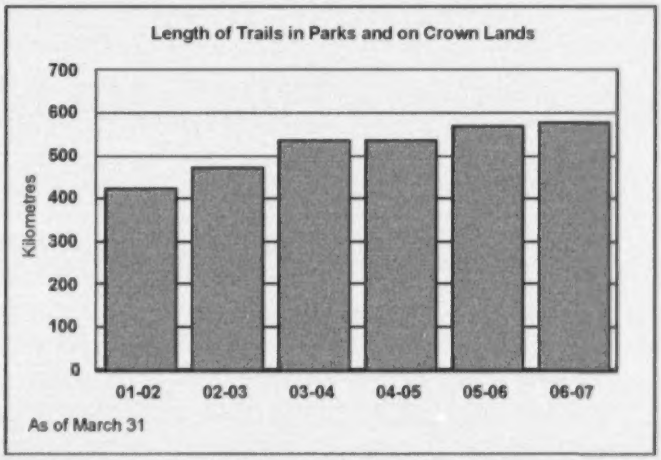
The availability of land for trails and the effort put into developing trails provides an indication of trail infrastructure available to provide Nova Scotians and visitors to the province with opportunities to participate in outdoor recreational activities that require recreational trails.

What does the measure tell us?

This measure tracks the length of trails occurring on Crown lands, including trails within provincial parks. The measure indicates specific support for hiking and other outdoor recreational activities. Trail development also measures the level of community support for putting outdoor recreational opportunities in place.

Where are we now?

As of March 31, 2007, approximately 579 kilometres of developed trails were available for use on Crown lands, up slightly from the previous year.



Where do we want to be?

The department's target for this measure was 546 kilometres by the end of 2006-07, and the March 31, 2007 figure of 579 kilometres exceeded the 2006-07 target. The length of trails is expected to continue to increase over time as more opportunities are identified and as government, community groups and other partners cooperate to create new trails as part of future trail development projects for a range of uses. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Outcome - Appreciation of Natural Resources

Measure 27 - Shubenacadie Wildlife Park Visitors

A key role of the department is to promote *public appreciation of natural resources* through participation in *nature related activities*. The Provincial Wildlife Park at Shubenacadie uses animal enclosures in natural settings and educational messages to help to provide the visiting public with a good understanding of Nova Scotia wildlife.

What does this measure tell us?

Annual attendance figures give an indication of the level of interest of Nova Scotians and visitors to our province in viewing Nova Scotia's wildlife in natural settings. This provides visitors to the Park with both a recreational experience and an opportunity to learn more about the province's wildlife. However, a number of factors, including weather, travel trends and economic conditions, have an effect on visitation.

Where are we now?

Attendance at the Wildlife Park during 2006-07 was approximately 87 thousand people, up about 14% from the previous year

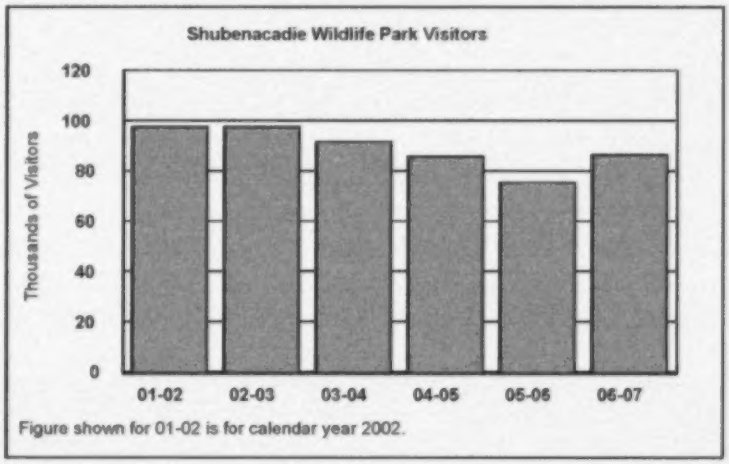


Figure shown for 01-02 is for calendar year 2002.

Where do we want to be?

The new target for this measure is 110 thousand visitors for 2009-10. It is hoped that the addition of a new interpretative centre, in partnership with Ducks Unlimited Canada, will help to attract more visitors to the park. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 28 - Occupancy Rates at Provincial Camping Parks

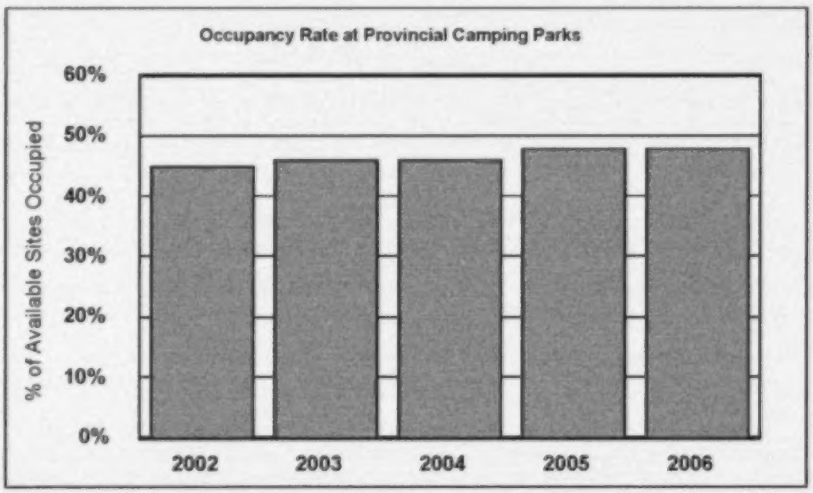
The annual occupancy rate measures the degree of utilization of our provincial camping parks and provides an indication of Nova Scotians' (and our visitors') interest in camping.

What does the measure tell us?

The occupancy rate is the percent of total campsites available for use that are actually occupied. This number reflects overall use of our campgrounds and also helps us identify possible new opportunities that can be taken advantage of, and deficiencies that can be corrected, through park planning and development.

Where are we now?

For the 2006 camping season, the occupancy rate during the core season of July and August was 48.4%, up slightly from 47.7% in 2005.



Where do we want to be?

The department had identified a target of 46% for the provincial camping park occupancy rate in 2005. Increased occupancy at our provincial parks can be achieved through improved client services, marketing and working with other departments and industry stakeholders. Weather is a key determinant of the occupancy rate, as cool or rainy weather during the weekend and at key times of the camping season can drastically reduce the occupancy rate. Beginning in 2005-06, this measure is only reporting on occupancy during the core period of July and August. This change has been made to get a more consistent measure by eliminating the effects of the greater variability in park attendance earlier and later in the camping season (during the "shoulder" seasons). This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

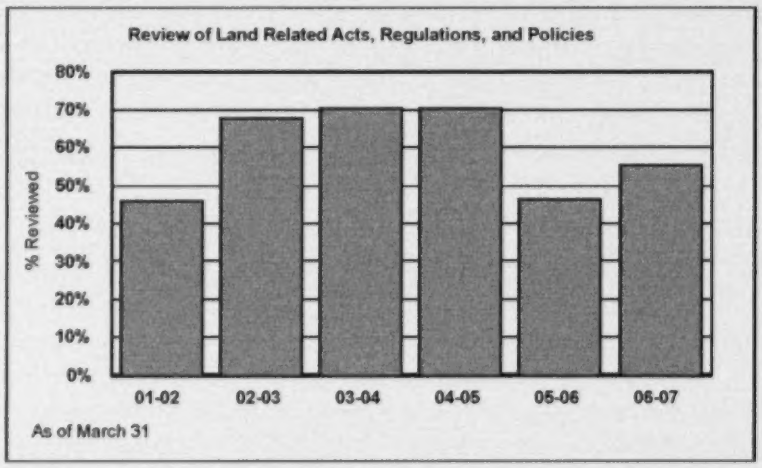
Core Business Area 2 - Crown Lands Administration

Outcome - A Modern and Efficient Land Administration System

Measure 29 - Review of Land Related Acts, Regulations and Policies
As custodian of the Province's Crown lands, a key component is an up-to-date regulatory structure for these lands.

What does the measure tell us?
Crown land is administered using a number of acts, regulations and policies. Some acts relate to private land issues as well. Ensuring that they are as up to date as possible will result in efficient and streamlined processes for the department and its clients.

Where are we now?
As of March 31, 2007, 56% of the acts and policies used to administer Crown lands (and some aspects of private lands) have been reviewed (completely or partially) at least once in the previous five years.



Where do we want to be?
The target value for this measure is to be at 70% at the end of the 2008-09 fiscal year. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.

Measure 30 - Migration of Crown Land and Resolution of Issues
As public trustee of Crown land, it is the Department of Natural Resources' responsibility to ensure the quality and extent of title to the Crown land base.

What does the measure tell us?
This measure is the number of resolved Property Identification numbers (PIDs) affected by the ungranted Crown 40,000 series being transferred to the new Land Registration System. The measure provides an indication of the amount of Crown land that has been successfully migrated or that has had issues successfully resolved.

Where are we now?
During 2005-06, there were 1,798 PID issues successfully resolved. This was the first year for this measure and it was directly impacted by staff hiring and the implementation of a process to resolve the PID issues. During 2006-07, an estimated 762 PID issues were successfully resolved.

Where do we want to be?
The target value for 2006-07 was 2,000 PID issues successfully resolved. No target was set for subsequent years. This measure was not included in the 2007-08 Business Plan.